

TM 15/1914

Serampore,

Tuesday, Aug 28th
1846.

My dear Friend,

I have been pained with your note relative to your intended journey and have delayed answering till this morning that I might have the benefit not only of my own maturest thoughts but of those of my brethren whom I am of course obliged to consult in a thing of this nature. I however lost no time in laying your letter before Mr. Carey that he might give it all the attention a request from such a friend deserves. I consulted with him last last night on the subject — we sat till nearly ten planning for you. He thinks that as Lopez is in some respect a public servant employed with the knowledge and acquiescence of the Christian public and wholly paid by them, that we could not send him on a journey of this kind consistently with the duty which the confidence the public repose in us demands from us in return, particularly after he has received 12 or 14000 Rupees of public money on the ground of translation; that in the unfinished state in which the work is, of any accident should happen to him or if his mind should by the journey be directed ^{on} to another channel, we

should then have ^{acted} ^{equally} unfairly to them to say
the least - and that ^{all} the advantage you could
possibly derive from them would be so small
(as he could neither secure your entrance
into the country nor your safety while
on the journey.) that it could bear no propor-
tion to the injury hazarded to the work in the
opinion of those who rate the importance of trans-
lating the Scriptures higher than almost any other
object, who indeed form the greater part of
those who support us in the work.

I have plainly and faithfully, my dear friend, related
the opinion of my brethren to you because I think
your amiable frankness deserves ^{that} it should be done
without the least disguise. You have however
little occasion to regret that there is ^{their} opinion
even if it should appear unreasonable, which you as-
sume to be so. I am sure men and things will not permit
me to think. Lapor is of most men I know the
most useful, and his circumstances are such that
nothing but a prospect of uncommon gain would make
him venture on such a journey. He is the most
timid creature living - sometimes when I have attempt-
ed to take him with me to Calcutta, once particularly
the river being a little rough I was compelled to
put him on shore before I had gone a mile and
proceed alone. He is quite a caletudinarian and sel-
dom fancies himself well a month together. To her-
mor I have sent him to Dr. Hare once or twice
who has displeased him much by not believing his
complaints, and telling him he is well. His dread of
death and the most distant approach to it, is amazing.
His situation as he is at Serampore, with his mo-
ther and brother's sister, where he has built a house
in which they live, nothing but a prospect of uncon-
mon profit could move him - and if engaged, he would
be little to your loss or a burden. Mr. Cary and I have
been turning over your plan to see if we can think

for you. The route you mention, terminates in
the Burman empire: the journey by sea to
Rangoon does the same; in the one you have
the perils of the sea to encounter, but in the
other you have a little of danger too from
tigers, a great part of the country thro' which
your path is almost complete jungle, and they
(the tigers) discover no partiality to literary men.
Would it not be better for you to take your de-
parture from Rangoon (whither you could arrive
with ease) to any part of the Burman frontier re-
turning to Rangoon again when repulsed, where
friends acquainted with the country, the language,
be might assist you? As to the danger from
robbers Mr Carey thinks it is pretty equal through-
out the empire. Mr Carey has also been suggesting
that in case you thought the protection of an Arme-
nian merchant valuable, which is probably your
object, as any help in his Chinese language on the
journey must be a trifle added to you, (indeed
I may mention the plain fact to you without suspicion of flattery I always thought you were Lapon's master) you
might well meet with an Armenian in Calcutta, both
experienced and enterprising, who for a tenth of the sum
which would cost him Lapon, ^{would} wish you - to
the end of the world. But I cannot but think you
presently deem it better than any other you can
opume. I only add if I had Parolet's wondrous horse
I would take you up and put you down
in the midst of Peking, and after staying with
you a month or two turn the pin and remain
at Serampore, till your tailor-made reminded me
you were ready for your retirement; when I wd
fetch you home with all imaginable safety. Good
bye! your friends so useful to science denied us?
Why our paucity so useful to science denied us?
I must conclude - I will call on you at 7 if possible
thing I know you will be with - and oh how many more
I am wherever you are
Your friend
J. H. Stoddard

From Mr. Marchman